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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK



A GERMAN TRAINING-SCHOOL FOR HOSPITAL MATRONS

MENTION has been made in these pages of a German course of preparation for nurses wishing to fit themselves for hospital management which was in some respects similar to the special course at Columbia College. While in Munich, having had the opportunity of meeting Fräulein von Wallmenich, or, as her official title reads, "Frau Oberin von Wallmenich," the accomplished head of the Red Cross Hospital of that city, fuller information was gained respecting this course, which so plainly proves that, on the whole, the same causes are everywhere at work producing the same results of more highly specialized education in nursing.

The course differs from that at Columbia in *not* being open to nurses in general. It is limited to those graduates of the Red Cross hospitals who show special fitness and who intend remaining in the service of the Red Cross. It is, in fact, planned for the greater improvement of Red Cross hospital work alone by giving special advantages and experience to the women who are to become the future heads and managers of these hospitals. The "regulations" kindly placed at our disposal are, rather freely translated, as follows:

"REGULATIONS FOR THE SCHOOL FOR PREPARING RED CROSS SISTERS FOR POSITIONS OF OBERIN (MATRON) IN THE RED CROSS HOSPITALS.

- "1. The Central Committee of the German Red Cross Society (that is, the committee representing the whole empire.—Ed.) has concluded an agreement with the Woman's Red Cross Society of Munich by which a training for the position of matron has been arranged in the Munich motherhouse under the direction of Frau Oberin von Wallmenich.
- "2. This school for matrons undertakes to educate women who are already trained sisters in such definite lines as will fit them to take charge of motherhouses (viz.: centres for the training and controlling of a body of nurses.—Ed.) of the Red Cross.
- "3. The sisters admitted to this course shall be of good family, shall possess a good general education, and shall have served at least two years as sister (*i. e.*, fully trained or graduate nurse.—Ed.).
- "4. Inquiries as to the course are to be made of Sister Clementina von Wallmenich, Red Cross Hospital, Munich. Necessary testimonials will be the birth certificate, physician's certificate, testimonials of education and of former work as sister, and a short personal history, as well as a written agreement to give, after the completion of the training, at least three-years' service in a hospital of the Red Cross or to refund the cost of the course (about seventy-five dollars.—Ed.).
- "5. The course of training lasts for five months and is without cost. It ends with examination and diploma. The students will live in the Munich mother-

house and observe the rules of the same, but no ordinary duties shall be required of them.

- "6. The course is under a committee, one member of which shall be a member of the Central Committee of the German Red Cross (with others designated.—Ed.) and one shall be the Oberin herself.
- "7. The training comprises the three divisions of duty of a matron, viz.: I., oversight of nursing work and the care of patients; II., general hospital management; III., selection, education, and discipline of the nurses. It consists
 - "a. In practical instruction, which is offered by the notable management of the Munich hospital, a modern, thoroughly equipped institution with one hundred and fifty beds and three operating-rooms; a central home with one hundred and fifty-eight qualified sisters and thirty pupils, who, besides the work of the motherhouse, are sent to fifty-three outside institutions and work centres, district nursing, obstetrical nursing, etc.
 - b. In systematic critical conferences over furnishings and appliances, arrangements, and instruction and rules relating to the service and personal conduct of sisters.
 - c. In theoretical instruction in ethics, pedagogy, principles of general management, scientific and hygienic construction of hospitals, principles of dietetics, the poor-laws and old-age-and-pension laws, in business methods of bookkeeping, and in the French and English languages.
 - "d. In thorough instruction in cooking and housekeeping, partly in the institution kitchen and partly in a large cooking-school.
- "8. The examinations are held before the local committee. The diploma is given by the German Central Committee.
- "9. (Regulation providing for dropping those who do not show sufficient grasp.)
- "10. (Further regulations as to time of admission, etc.)"

On the tenth anniversary of the Munich motherhouse in 1902 Sister Clementina spoke of the growth in all branches of work, and of this newly concluded undertaking to train executives. Among the pupils at that time were those who were destined to conduct large motherhouses in Dresden, Strasburg, Coburg, and Quedlinburg.

THE PROGRESS OF NURSING EDUCATION IN FRANCE

AT the third National Congress of Public and Private Charities in France, which was held several months ago in Bordeaux, four reports on the "Professional Instruction and Position of the Nursing Staff of Hospitals," three of which had been drawn up by men, one a physician and two laymen, apparently directors and hospital inspectors, were presented. The fourth was read by Dr. Anna Hamilton, who vigorously scores the reports of the men in a summary sent to the *British Journal of Nursing*. Her criticisms, part of which we give, shed a pitiless light on the condition of French hospitals. Her own report, which we will give in a later number, shows the remedy so plainly that one must wonder there can be two minds on the question. She says:

"REPORT OF MONSIEUR E. OGIER, INSPECTOR GENERAL DES SERVICES ADMINISTRATIFS DU MINISTRE DE L'INTERIEUR.

"This gentleman, who does not seem to have any practical experience of hospitals in France and abroad, maintains that, though schools for nurses have

been opened in Lyons, Rouen, Montpellier, Havre, Saint Etienne, Nancy, Bordeaux, it has not been possible to get the better kind of pupils, such as those that English schools recruit.

"The lectures have been attended by the nurses belonging to the hospital staff, the 'infirmiers' (coarse male and female ward servants); but though small scholarships have been offered to outsiders, they have not come forward, and this leads the writer to the conclusion that nursing is too objectionable a career, morally and materially, for nice girls to take it up—they will always rather turn governesses.

"But Monsieur Ogier does not consider that these so-called nursing schools are quite different from the English ones; they only consist of a course of lectures given by doctors or students, a theoretical medical teaching from which the nursing is quite absent. One has heard in one of these 'schools' a clever surgeon explaining in the minutest details the theory and construction of the thermometer, and never mentioning all the practical and useful details as to the way of taking the temperature! Of course, pupils living in town and attending such lectures once or twice a week, and called up for examination after six months, cannot know much of nursing. Sometimes they have been allowed to enter the hospitals, but only whilst the visiting physician goes round his ward—and that has been called 'hospital training' and supposed to be practical work! Doctors as well as hospital guardians seem to think that future nurses have to be taught like future doctors, and therefore suppose lectures and walking the hospitals the most desirable plan for them. They entirely put aside the most important requisite, that able nurses should train the probationers. Therefore nurses who have attended lectures and their common lay helpers remain just as ignorant as to the real nursing knowledge they ought to obtain, though in many of these schools they have passed the examination and obtained a diploma!

"The report brings forward many statistics showing, for instance, that at Montpellier the nursing school has recruited two hundred and ninety-seven pupils from 1898 to 1902, and that sixty-three diplomas have been delivered, and yet the nursing staff is not improved. I once witnessed such an examination for the diploma, and wondered who was to be pitied most—the candidates or the professors; anyhow, it was dismally ludicrous.

"The conclusions of Monsieur Ogier are that perhaps if the nurses were paid more a better kind would be obtained; he also proposes that they should no longer be considered as servants, and that their dormitories should be improved; finally, that they should not be liable to be suddenly dismissed by the guardian in charge,* like the servants, and that pensions should be provided for them.

"REPORT OF DR. J. M. DURAND, PHYSICIAN OF THE BORDEAUX CIVIL HOSPITALS.

"In this report the writer declares that, knowing little about other hospitals, he will only describe matters as they are at Bordeaux.

"He says that nurses here go around with the visiting doctor, report to him about the patients, listen to his prescriptions, see that they are attended to, take temperatures, manage all the housekeeping, and go round every two hours to see if the patients want anything, therefore are the only nurses.

"But to my knowledge this is how matters really stand: Nurses keep well

* "The guardian in charge, or 'Administrateur de Service,' changes every week or fortnight, according to the custom, which may differ from one town to another. He rules entirely during his time, and has nothing to say afterwards—a most awkward, unsatisfactory arrangement, as each guardian has his own peculiar ideas as to hospital management.

out of the group of medical students crowding round the bed, mostly knitting or looking elsewhere. The doctor's prescriptions are written down by one of the 'externes' for the chemist in the 'cahier de visite;' the mixtures, pills, etc., are brought hence from the 'pharmacie' and laid on the shelf at the head of each bed. Once there, the patient can take his medicine, sipping from the bottle an unknown amount, and so often or seldom, or not at all, as he chooses. The temperatures are taken by the 'externes,' coming twice a day to the hospital in the wards where the visiting doctor is particular; by the nurses otherwise, thrusting the thermometer in the bedclothes with no other care.

"When the visiting doctor wants information about the patients he inquires from the 'internes' (medical students in their third or fourth year. They live in the hospital and are paid, and look after the patients, doing much of real nurses' work) or asks the patient himself. The 'internes' are responsible for their wards and sole masters when the 'visiting' is not there. They can come in at any time, day or night, find fault if they choose to do so, examine patients how and as long as they want. I saw one strip a girl's chemise off and oblige her to lie naked on her bed in full view of all the ward, so that he might more conveniently study the kind of skin disease she had—no screens, of course, they do not exist. She begged and struggled not to be thus exposed, but he declared her temper was bad, and to punish her did not hasten over this revolting proceeding. The nun was somewhere about, but kept out of the way.

"Moreover, the nuns are fettered by regulations which prevent their ever becoming adequate nurses. For instance, I once heard a lecturer turn towards the male group of listeners to explain how to give vaginal douches, and to put the patient in the obstetric position, etc., because the Daughters of Charity Vincent de Paul (the most popular of hospital nuns), sitting on the other side, were not allowed to give such improper care to the patients. It appears incredible, but it is a fact, that patients who undergo gynecological operations are shaved by those coarse, vulgar men-servants or by the young students. . . ! Nuns consider it sinful, and Heaven knows all the wickedness that has been the consequence of their absurd prejudice. I have often seen these men-servants giving douches in the theatre, carrying half-naked patients and coarsely joking . . . though the nun at a distance could see and hear!

"They seem to be ever busy counting clean or dirty linen. They adorn the altars in the ward with all kinds of paper flowers and laces, straighten counterpanes (though the beds are seldom made), and look after the general orderly appearance of the ward. But cupboards, closets, back passages, even underneath the altars they are so proud of, you find dirt, disorder, all kinds of refuse, and infectious encumbrances. But the linen-room seems to be one of the aims of their lives, and they spend months folding in the most complicated and varied ways the hospital linen, till the linen-room seems to be an exhibition of all possible designs, where you would be at a loss to distinguish a shirt from a towel.

"But nightwork is the worst; for instance, the big St. Andrew Hospital, which numbers from seven hundred to nine hundred patients, has only two nuns in attendance during the night, from eight P. M. to five A. M., one on the male side, with an infirmier, and one on the female side with an infirmière, and they go about, passing only twice through the same ward—for there are many of them. The wards are locked (the windows are barred) and the patients have no means of calling for outside help. And to allow the nuns to go around more quickly, a piece of cardboard with a capital 'R' (meaning 'recommended') or an 'A' (mean-

ing 'administered'*) is pinned at the foot of the bed, so that the nun can stop to see if the patient wants anything—or is dead, in which case the body will have to be removed at five A. M. Thus you see in the mortuary rooms bodies showing, by the position in which they have stiffened before their death was noted, what pain, despair, and want of a merciful hand they have suffered in their agony!

"The report explains that the infirmiers and infirmières (lay nurses) are only servants, in fact, as they have to attend to the heating and lighting of wards, the making of beds and cleaning wards, water-closets, and spittoon-cups, and other work which ought not to be done by nurses. To say the truth, these coarse servants are called upon to do many more things for the patients—all kinds of irrigation, minor dressings, changing clothes, etc. They always give bed-pans, enemas, and get tips that vary for all these attendances, as also for bringing water to wash, and for combing the patients. It is commonly said that combing and enemas cost ten cents each, the bed-pan four, the basin of water two. Nuns know it, but they say it is impossible to prevent this abuse, and when patients are too poor to pay—well, they wash with their lemonade or remain dirty and their hair awfully entangled. A white cap is poised upon it when visitors are expected or when they are sent to the operating-theatre; it soon gets knocked off, and the hair which has not been plaited is everywhere.

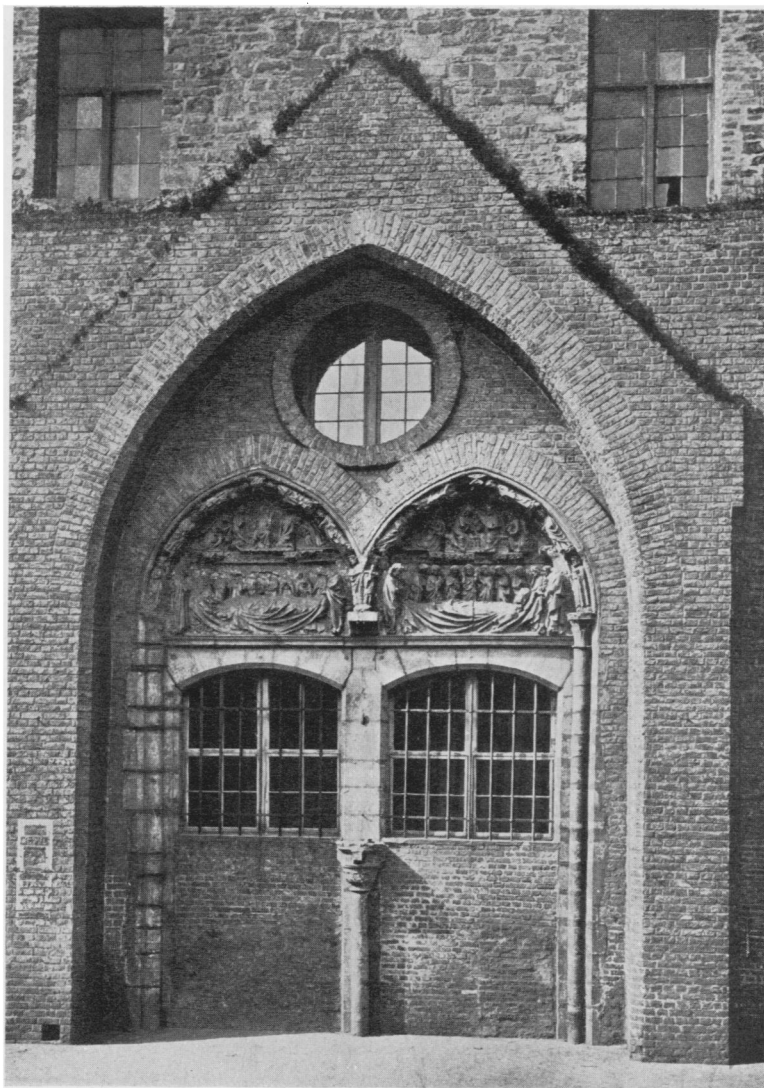
"The report declares, though, that the lectures which the nuns have attended for a few years have had good results (? ?) and that it is now a year since a real school has been established (? ? ?) under the direction of a 'professeur Agrégé de la Faculté.' To my knowledge it is another sample of the established error—lectures and no training.

"But Dr. Durand proposes some improvements as to the lay nurses: that they should no longer be mixed with the other servants; that they should be obliged to attend the lectures regularly and pass examinations every now and then; that there should be three divisions for them, and that they should be made to pass from one to another according to the marks given by the visiting doctor. He, however, will not hear of a diploma or certificate being given to the hospital staff or pupils from outside attending the lectures. He considers that the nurses should be allowed to lodge in the town so as to enable them to marry, thus facilitating applications. Finally, a pension ought to be granted them after twenty-five years' service and sixty years of age.

"He then takes up the Prime Minister's 'Circulaire' on nursing schools, and again vehemently opposes the diplomas as being likely to induce nurses to practise medicine unlawfully or give a right to those who, having attended lectures, will set up as nurses many years after having forgotten all they knew. He also thinks that nurses belonging to a hospital staff would, on getting the diploma, expect to get the better posts, even if they prove perfectly unbearable to all concerned, and might go to law against doctors and guardians if they did not obtain the positions they considered it their right to have. He also thinks it dangerous to give diplomas for nursing, as it may, by and by, give a special right to some to nurse and withhold the right from others. Then he strongly objects to women nurses in male wards, and thinks experience will prove how impossible it is to have them.

"To those accustomed to the very simple, practical, and logical plan of training in English schools, the criticisms and fears expressed in this report will seem quite strange. But the reader must know that all over France there is the

* Administered means that the patient has been through the obligations of the Church, and may die without further trouble.



WINDOW OF OLD PART OF BUILDINGS, ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL, BRUGES

same absurd plan for 'training' nurses—medical lectures, which induce the pupils to practice medicine rather than nursing, which they have not learnt!"

According to Dr. Hamilton's account, conditions in the French hospitals must indeed be hideous, and, with the example of English, Dutch, and German trained nurses right at their doors, we must think that the real explanation is to be found in deep-rooted professional heartlessness and jealousy of woman's work on the part of medical men in France, rather than in the mere ignorance and subordination of religious nursing orders.

LETTERS

BRUGES.

If any nurse wishes to see an ancient and historical nursing order exactly as it was in the Middle Ages still at work in an institution of venerable antiquity, where beautiful architecture, quaint old buildings, and a most charming old-time garden form the setting for hospital wards of fairly modern type, let her not fail under any circumstances to go to Bruges and visit the Hospital of St. John, under the care of the Augustinian order of Catholic sisters, where the sweet side of religious nursing may be seen. It is a most fascinating old place, hidden away from the world behind high stone walls and the partly ruined remains of old church buildings, carved gateways, and stone corridors. Inside to the left is the oldest part of the buildings,—over seven hundred years they have been standing,—once the hospital but now serving as the cloisters where the sisters live. This ancient part is composed of long, slightly curving corridors two stories high; on one side the corridor looks upon the gardens and on the other it opens into small rooms. Spotless cleanliness, bare board floors, and fresh, soft-tinted plaster characterize the place now—whether it was so seven hundred years ago one cannot tell. This part is separated by a large garden space from the central buildings, which contain the famous art treasures which are the property of the old hospital, and beyond this again is still more garden before one comes to the new hospital buildings, which were erected some fifty years ago.

These are on the pavilion plan, opening on a connecting corridor which traverses three sides of a large square; the fourth side, also corridor, connects with the sisters' quarters and gives access to the outer gateway. This square is simply one lavish bower of green. Trees, grass, flowers, and vines make the place look like a dream, and it is used for the recreation of the patients, who reach it from the corridor.

Outside the wards are large vegetable and fruit gardens, grape-vines, and flower-beds, reaching finally to the old stone wall which surrounds the whole place. A lovelier spot in summer could hardly be imagined.

The wards are ten in number and hold twenty-four beds each. They were bare and plain but very clean, the ventilation good, and the air fresh, although the beds were very close together. The beds and small tables were of wood, clumsy and plain, and the bedspreads were of dark-colored calico, while each bed had its set of rods and of old-fashioned dark calico bed-curtains. Modern science had exacted enough plumbing and drainage to make everything quite satisfactory from the working standpoint (and they showed us all their closets and corners), although homely and plain.

There was an atmosphere of peace and serenity, and the patients looked content. The men patients smoked on their corridor, and the women had their little belongings about their beds. The whole place had a home-like feeling, and though the work may not have been up to the modern idea in many ways, one

could not but feel that the patients were kindly treated. The sisters had kind, good faces, and several younger ones seemed to be flying about and working diligently. No medical school is connected with this old hospital, and "orders" are probably of the simplest.

Mrs. Fenwick and I, who went about together, both agreed that there was something very lovely and consoling about the religious sister, and that, if she could only have the *knowledge*, combined with her sweet seriousness and freedom from modern flippancy and brusqueness, she would be quite perfect.

The dress of the St. John Sisters is very picturesque; it is a coarse serge of ivory color, and when on duty this is turned up over a black petticoat. A large, dark-blue gingham apron is worn over this, and removable oversleeves of ivory serge. There is a black stole, and the white linen cap has very stiff, wide wings, and thrown over these a thin black gauze veil.

In the old City Hall there are some paintings showing scenes of the fifteenth century, and in one a Sister of St. John is seen in this precise dress, except that she has not the dark-blue apron or oversleeves on.

The pharmacy of this old hospital contains treasures of wood carving that make one quite miserable with envy—medicine-chests and sideboards covered with most wonderful carvings of old-time hospital scenes. The pharmacy is in charge of a sister who is a skilled pharmacist and a very dignified and imposing woman.

To the world in general the hospital is famous for its art treasures, which attract there hundreds of tourists. Grant Allen, in his "Cities of Belgium," refers to it thus:

"The Hospital of St. John, one of the most ancient institutions in Bruges, or of its kind in Europe, was founded not later than 1188. . . . It derives its chief interest for the tourist from its small picture-gallery, the one object in Bruges which must above all else be visited. This is the only place for studying in full the exquisite art of Memling, whose charming and poetical work is here more fully represented than elsewhere. . . . Many of these pictures were painted for the institution, which they still adorn, so that we have here the opportunity of seeing works of mediæval art in the precise surroundings which first produced them. . . . Hans Memling . . . was born about 1430. . . . The hospital possessed an important relic of St. Ursula,—her arm,—and about 1480-90 commissioned Memling to paint scenes from her life on the shrine destined to contain this precious deposit. The chest, or reliquary, which he adorned for the purpose forms the very best work of his lifetime."

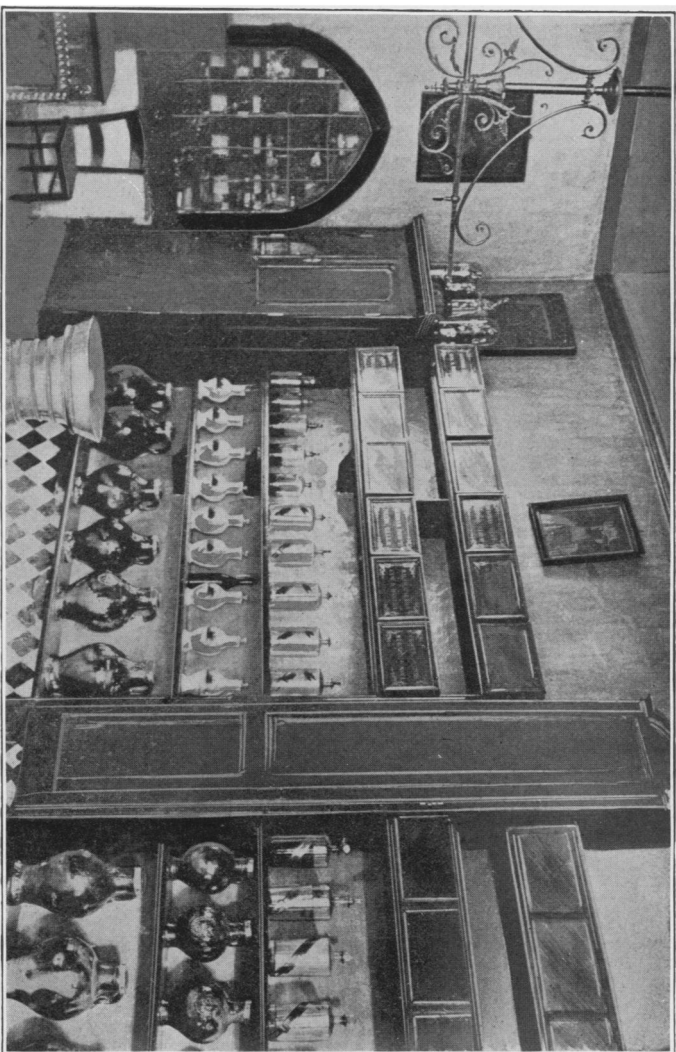
Grant Allen does not say, but one of the sisters told Mrs. Fenwick and me, that Memling had been a patient in the hospital, and after his recovery made this exquisite painting through gratitude.

In another picture of Memling's in the hospital, the "Adoration of the Magi," a figure is represented as looking in a window at the scene, dressed in the same dress and yellow cap worn to-day by convalescents in the hospital.

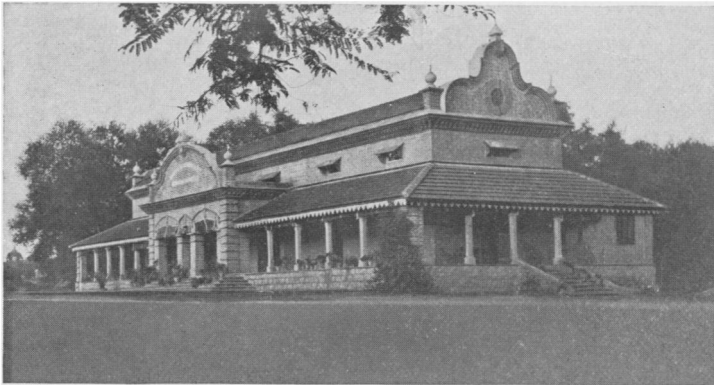
L. L. D.

EXTRACTS FROM MISS BUTCHER'S LETTERS FROM SHAN-SI, INDIA

"We have our meals very oddly divided here, so that when you give a medicine 't. i. d.; p. c.," I do not know when you would give it. The natives have only two meals (when they can afford as much as that). We have 'little breakfast' when we get up, breakfast at eleven, tea at four, and dinner at seven-thirty. . . . Dr. Ernst was called to see a patient in the city and I went with her. We found a girl of sixteen, dying of consumption, in a room about six



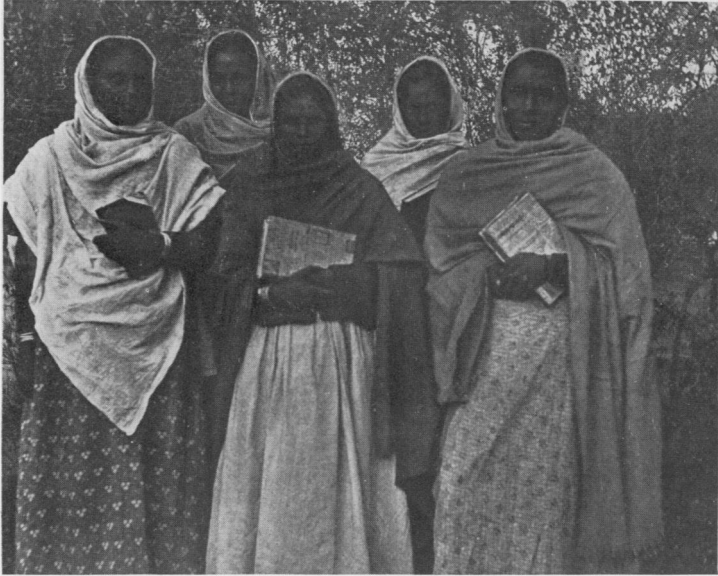
THE PHARMACY IN ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL AT BRUGES



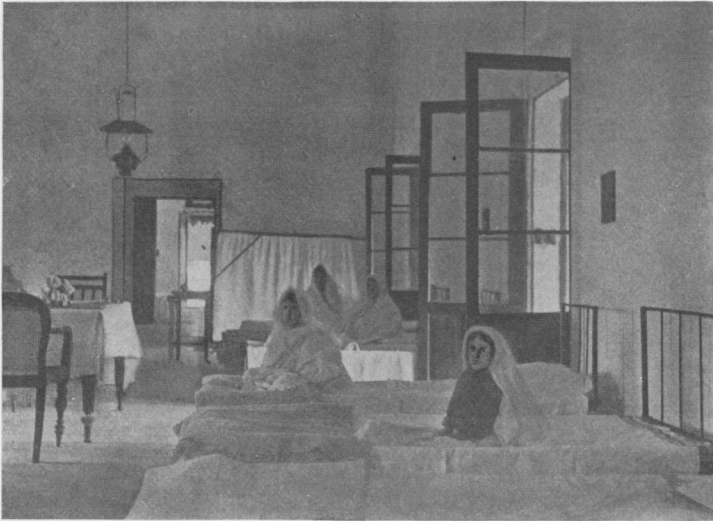
THE MARY ACKERMAN HOYT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SHAN-SI, NORTHERN INDIA



**RESIDENCE OF DR. ROSE FAIRBANK, DR. ALICE ERNST, AND
MISS ETHA BUTCHER, NURSE IN CHARGE
Hoyt Memorial Hospital, Shan-Si, Northern India**



OUR BIBLE-WOMEN AND SCHOOL-TEACHERS, SHAN-SI, NORTHERN INDIA



A WARD IN THE HOYT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SHAN-SI, NORTHERN INDIA

by ten feet, with *no* window. I have no idea how many other people were in the room, and she was so covered with blankets that we could not see which was head and which foot. Dr. Ernst started to draw away the clothes at the foot end because it was a little higher. I had been wondering where the woman's head was, and she hit upon the end I would have chosen. Medicine was sent her for three days, but she took it all in one day. What India needs is a system of district nursing, but at the present rate it will be many a long day before there are nurses to spare in India for that kind of work. . . .

"I do very little nursing myself yet, as my first year is supposed to be devoted to languages. I go to the hospital every day, but only for a little time unless some big operation is on hand. There is only one Eurasian nurse, but she is well trained *for this land*: she oversees things in the hospital, is compounder in the dispensary, and is called if needed at night. We have five native girls 'in training,' though the Training-School is not really under way yet. Dr. Fairbank teaches them English, mathematics, etc.; she gives lectures in hygiene, Dr. Ernst in anatomy and physiology, and I demonstrations in practical nursing. I enclose some prints to show you how we look. . . .

"The dispensary is open every morning except Wednesday and Sunday: Wednesday the doctors reserve for operation day. We have only eleven patients in the hospital just now, but lately had nineteen and were really very busy. The present cases are carcinoma, hernia, fistula, abscess, hip disease, and syphilis. Nearly all our patients have the last disease, with or without something else. We recently lost a little girl who had an immense ovarian cyst removed.

"A patient left this week whose nose had been cut off by her husband. Dr. Fairbank brought her up a new one from her cheeks, and while it was not so handsome as the one she lost, it was a great improvement on the hole in her face with which she came to us. She began to learn to read while in hospital, and we sent some tracts and Gospels home by her which we hope she will use among her friends, as she comes from a native State near here where there is no Christian work at all.

"We have to allow the people their native food, of course. At first Dr. Fairbank was afraid to give sick people rice and curry and the native bean, but she found it agreed with them and they refused other things. Those on 'liquid diet' have milk, suji, sago, etc. As the Hindoos do not eat eggs, that eliminates one important item. We have a Brahman cook, so that high-caste patients may be able to eat our food.

"Most of the fever here is malaria: there are several other sorts which no one knows much about, but typhoid is rare among the natives. We can get ice on occasion during the hot season—not during cool weather. We have an Arnold sterilizer which we *boil* over a charcoal stove. All milk has to be boiled

"Almost everyone in this land has bad eyes sooner or later. The babies born in the hospital since I came have *not* had trouble while they stayed with us. . . .

"On Sundays we go to the Hindostanee Presbyterian church in the native city in the morning, and in the evening to the Wesleyan service held in the Railway Institute by the chaplain of the regiment here. There is quite a population of English officials, civil, military, and railway, in the station, and we have a good many American magazines and papers. . . . Letters from home are most welcome in this far-away land. We have only one foreign mail a week, and the suspense for an hour or two before it arrives is *harrowing*. . . . Remember me to all friends."